



STATE OF MICHIGAN
RUTH JOHNSON, SECRETARY OF STATE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
LANSING

December 2, 2016

Board of State Canvassers
Michigan Department of State
430 West Allegan
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Board Members:

Michigan's clerks are rated some of the best in the country. Together, we have ensured the integrity and security of Michigan's elections. This includes using paper ballots that are counted by precision optical scanning tabulators. These tabulators are not connected to the Internet. We also conduct post-election audits to verify the integrity of our state's system.

During the course of the November 8, 2016 election, zero cases of voter fraud were reported. Following the election, and after certification of 83 county canvassing boards, the bipartisan Board of State Canvassers certified the results and appointed the 16 members of the Electoral College for Donald J. Trump. The Michigan Bureau of Elections has since received a petition for a statewide recount of the 2016 presidential election from Green Party candidate Jill Stein, who received just 51,463 votes, or 1.07 percent of the 4,799,284 votes cast.

A request for a statewide recount is highly unusual and will require significant resources at the state and local levels, both financial as well as human, under a very difficult deadline. Should the board not support the objections filed against the petition, the election code gives the Board of State Canvassers options on how a recount may be conducted, including a manual tally of the ballots, tabulation using a computer, or a combination of both methods.

Given the magnitude of this task, it is critical that we use the most accurate and secure process possible. Our optical scanners have proven to meet this test. Therefore, it is my strong recommendation that the Board of State Canvassers conduct the recount using optical scanning tabulators. This would greatly reduce the opportunity for human error, and also reduce the amount of local resources that will be necessary to complete this process.

Thank you for your work to certify our elections results and for serving the citizens of our great state.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ruth A. Johnson".

Ruth A. Johnson
Secretary of State